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of their new enterprise. Besides the very simple and excellent Acme microscopes and the accessories belonging to them, much information is given in regard to microscopical supplies in general.

THE SPENCER OBJECTIVES.—The partnership heretofore existing between C. A. Spencer & Sons, has been dissolved, and Herbert R. Spencer announces that he will hereafter furnish lenses marked H. R. Spencer & Co., made after the same formulas, and of the same uniform excellence, which have for years past characterized the lenses made under his supervision, by the old company.

GUTTA PERCHA CELLS.—These rings for mounting dry objects, can be obtained from Lloyd H. Smith, of Geneva, N. Y., at from fifty to eighty cents per hundred. They are such as are used by Prof. H. L. Smith, and are suitable for diatoms and other thin objects.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— The U. S. Entomological Commission designs preparing for publication, probably in the appendix of its third report, a bibliography of American (and Canadian) economic entomology. The bibliography will contain references to papers, articles and notes in agricultural and popular scientific periodicals, as well as journals devoted to bee culture, and as complete as possible references will be made to entomological notes in those periodicals which appeared prior to 1850. The titles of notes, articles, reports on works, will be entered under the name of authors, or of periodicals, especially agricultural reports and papers, with brief digest of contents given in a line or two, in the same style as in Mr. Mann's excellent bibliographical record of *Psyche*, the organ of the Cambridge Entomological Club, of Cambridge, Mass.

After due pains are taken such a record will necessarily be quite imperfect. The compiler will have to rely much on aid from authors of any and every article or note on economic entomology. Its completeness will greatly depend on the care with which entomologists may prepare lists of their own articles. Entomologists are therefore earnestly requested to coöperate by sending full lists of their papers or notes on any subject connected with *economic entomology* (not general or scientific entomology unless bearing on the applied science) and prepared in the style of that of *Psyche*, to A. S. Packard, Jr., at Providence, R. I.

— Jacob Boll, of Dallas, Texas, died recently in Western Texas at a distance from civilization. He was a native of the Canton of Aargau, Switzerland, and was a pupil of Agassiz before the latter came to the United States. He was active in promoting educational reform in his native country, and was an authority in entomology. During a long residence in Texas he was an untiring collector, and sent many specimens to Europe. His collections of insects, especially of Lepidoptera, are une-

qualified for beauty. He was a good geologist, and contributed articles to various journals, including the *AMERICAN NATURALIST*. For two years previous to his death he was engaged in explorations, for Prof. Cope, in the Permian region of Texas. He discovered numerous remarkable extinct vertebrates, which have formed the subject of various papers. These number thirty-two species, and they have thrown great light on the nature of vertebrate life at that early period. Mr. Boll was a most amiable man, and his death is a serious loss to science.

— The report of the committee on science teaching in schools, read by Dr. Youmans before the American Association, arraigns the unscientific methods by which science is usually mistaught in schools. He justly claims that science, as a means of training the faculties in the various ways to which they are severally adapted, is not taught in the public schools. It is not made the means of cultivating the observing powers, or of stimulating inquiry, or of exercising the judgment in weighing evidence, or of forming original and independent habits of thought. Wide personal differences of capacity, aptitude, attainment and opportunity not only exist among children, but they are the prime data of all efficient mental cultivation. In the graded schools, just in proportion to the perfection of the mechanical arrangements, individuality disappears; and with individuality goes originality. Science, if rightly pursued, is the most valuable school of self-instruction. From the beginning men of science have been self-dependent and self-reliant, because self-taught.

— Mr. Alfred R. Wallace has published, says the *Academy*, a new work entitled "Island Life," which deals with the problems presented by insular faunas and floras by the aid of the most recent geological and physical researches. A special feature in the work is the importance attached to former changes of climate, as indicated by glacial phenomena and the luxuriant floras of polar regions; these are carefully investigated, and a somewhat novel solution of the whole problem of geological climates is given.

— The third annual book of the Michigan Sportsmen's Association contains some excellent reading matter. The report on nomenclature, barring some inaccuracies, is an excellent one, and most timely, as is Mr. Fred. Mather's and Mr. J. G. Portman's papers on fish propagation and protection. Such associations and publications as these, will tend greatly to increase the interest of the public in economic zoölogy and all that pertains to it.

— The conch fisheries of the Bahamas, according to the *Scientific American*, are of considerable importance, many tons being exported to Italy, France and Germany from Nassau; in Italy they are cut into sleeve buttons and brooches, and in France and Germany they are used in porcelain manufactories. \$50,000 worth of conch pearls are annually exported from Nassau.

— Dr. Anton Fritsch is making a series of galvanoplastic models of the Stegocephali found by him in the Gas-Kohle of Bohemia, which will be of much use to palæontologists, judging by a specimen which we have received. They are for sale by Dr. Fritsch, at Prague, or Mr. Jamrach, 180 St. George street, London, Nos. 1–18, at 100 marks.

— Having observed, among the Artemisias which cover immense regions of North America, neither flies, nor worms, nor any insects (also no scorpions or tarantulas), M. Poirot has suggested that the plant might prove adverse to the metamorphoses of phylloxera, by covering the ground with branches of *Artemisias*.

— The entomologists of New York have organized a society under the name of the “New York Entomological Club,” and in January issued the first number of *Papilio*, the organ of the club.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—Papers read at the session commencing Tuesday, November 16, 1880, at New York:—

1. Report on the dredging cruise of the U. S. Steamer *Blake*, Commander Bartlett, during the summer of 1880, by Alexander Agassiz.
2. On the origin of the coral reefs of the Yucatan and Florida banks, by Alexander Agassiz.
3. On some recent experiments in determining the electromotive force of the Brush dynamo-electric machine, by Henry Morton.
4. Measurement of new forms of electric lamps operating by incandescence, by Henry Morton.
5. On the intimate structure of certain mineral veins, by Benjamin Silliman.
6. Mineralogical notes, by Benjamin Silliman.
7. The relationship of the carboniferous Euphorberia to living and extinct Myriapods, by Samuel H. Scudder.
8. On the structure of the extinct *Carnivora* of the family *Nimravidae*, by E. D. Cope.
9. On the Canidae of the Miocene period, by E. D. Cope.
10. On the basin of the Gulf of Mexico, by J. E. Hilgard.
11. On the origin of the coral reefs of the Yucatan and Florida banks, by Alexander Agassiz.
12. Observations on ice and icebergs in the polar regions, by F. Schwatka.
13. On the duration of the Arctic winter, by F. Schwatka.
14. On the ellipticity of the earth as deduced from pendulum experiments, by C. S. Pierce.
15. On an improvement in the Sprengel Air-pump, by O. N. Rood.
16. On the thermal balance, by S. P. Langley.
17. On measurement of radiant energy, by S. P. Langley.
18. Causes which determine the progressive movement of storms, by Elias Loomis.
19. On the antimony mines of Southern Utah, by J. S. Newberry.
20. On the conglomerate ore deposits of the United States and Mexico, by J. S. Newberry.
21. On photographing the Nebula in Orion, by Henry Draper.
22. On condensers for currents of high potential, by George F. Barker.